



## PRESENTER BIOS *(Subject to change)*

### KEYNOTE

Brenda Wong Aoki – *Playwright, Performer, Storyteller*



[Brenda Wong Aoki](#) is a writer, performer, recording artist and the first nationally recognized Asian-American storyteller in the U.S. Known for her agility across disciplines and cultures, Brenda has created theatrical works for symphony, jazz ensembles, Taiko ensemble, contemporary and traditional world dance, and solo performance. She weaves together Japanese Noh and Kyogen theater, dance and everyday life experience in plays that have been produced in the U.S. Japan, China, Singapore, Australia and Austria. She has been awarded National Endowment Theater Fellowships, Drama-logue Awards, INDIE awards for Best Spoken Word recordings, a Critics' Circle Award, and continued ASCAP Innovation Awards for new libretto. A credentialed K-12 teacher and curriculum developer, Brenda was a founding faculty member of the Institute for Diversity in the Arts at Stanford University. Currently she is developing a new work to premiere in 2021 commissioned by the Hewlett Foundation about her mixed race family's 122-year history in San Francisco. Her paternal grandfather was a founder of Japantown in the 1890's, and her maternal grandmother was a leader of the first Chinatown garment union in the 1920's. Brenda was born in Salt Lake City, Utah and still has family here. Full bio can be [found here](#).

### CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Laurel Cannon Alder – *Grants Manager, Utah Arts & Museums*



Laurel is the Grants Manager for Utah Arts & Museums, and oversees more than \$1.5 million that is distributed throughout the state. Laurel teaches the Change Leader curriculum and loves working with Change Leaders throughout the state. During her career, Laurel has been a forward-thinking, strategic and steady leader in Utah's arts and nonprofit communities where her focus has been to build partnerships and empower leaders and professionals to achieve their goals in the various communities and organizations throughout the state. She has also engaged in her own individual pursuits and client efforts, including serving on and chairing nonprofit boards, starting organizations, creating grassroots fundraising campaigns, building boards, developing facilities, running major events, writing grants, marketing various events and programs, and developing corporate sponsorship relationships. She received her B.A. in Liberal Arts & Sciences from Utah State University in Logan, and her M.A. in Art Administration from Indiana University where she was awarded the prestigious Jane Addams Fellowship from the IU Center on Philanthropy. Laurel and her husband Nate have three children.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Victoria Panella Bourns – *Director, Utah Division of Arts & Museums*



Victoria Panella Bourns was appointed director of the Utah Division of Arts and Museums in April of 2017. For the previous 12 years she directed the Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts and Parks (ZAP) program, which distributes approximately \$16 million dollars annually to over 170 arts and cultural organizations. She also managed Salt Lake County's public art and art collection programs. Panella Bourns has worked for some of Utah's premier organizations, including Repertory Dance Theater, KUER (FM90) and Salt Lake Acting Company. She served as treasurer for the Performing Arts Coalition during the planning and implementation of the highly utilized Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center. An active supporter of our cultural community, she helped transform Utah Citizens for the Arts into the Utah Cultural Alliance. In 2015, Panella Bourns received Utah Cultural Alliance's Pillar of the Community Award. She was listed in Catalyst Magazine's "Agents of Change: Catalysts in our Community" and received the 2000 Utah Arts Festival Mayor's Award for Service to the Arts. She holds a bachelor's degree in dance and a master's degree in arts administration, both from the University of Utah.

Ana Brooks – *Artist, Mata Ortiz Potter*



Ana Brooks is an accomplished potter and part of the revival of pottery from the Mata Ortiz pueblo in Mexico. She serves as lead artists for additional potters from Mata Ortiz and regularly facilitates workshops for teachers throughout Utah. Ana grew up making pottery with her mother and grandmother. She still makes pots using clay and colorful rock harvested from Utah's mountains and deserts.

Angela Brown – *Publisher, SLUG Magazine; Executive Director, Craft Lake City*



Angela H. Brown has published SLUG (SaltLakeUnderGround) Magazine for the past 18 years. During that time, Brown has launched the digital version, slugmag.com, SLUG's bi-weekly podcast, Soundwaves, and created dozens of successful SLUG Magazine community events. The magazine's combined digital and print circulation reaches over 65,000 readers each month. Brown has been the recipient of The Josephine Zimmerman Pioneer in Journalism Award from Utah's chapter of the society of professional journalists. In 2009, Brown started Craft Lake City, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization recognized for showcasing Utah's handmade community with an annual Do-It-Yourself Festival. This three-day DIY festival features over 250 local artisans, a STEM building, 50 local performers on two stages and attracts more than 20,000 attendees each year. In her spare time, Brown loves to print silver gelatin images in her photographic dark-room, run outdoors and volunteer for various local committees and advisory boards. Brown is the current Chair of the SLC Corporation Business Advisory Board for the City Council and Mayor. In 2018, Brown was honored as a Distinguished Alum from the Salt Lake Community College. In 2019, Brown was honored by Utah Business Magazine as one of 30 "Women To Watch."

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Laura Brown – *Executive Director, Moab Music Festival*



Laura Brown has worked to build future audiences for the arts through teaching, research, performance, and administration. She is entering her 7th year as Executive Director of the Moab Music Festival. At one time, Laura's quest was to become a life-long student. She has a Bachelor of Music in Performance (Oboe) and Master of Arts from the University of Wyoming and finished ABD at the University of California at Davis. She also holds a MBA from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Brown serves as second oboist in the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra and is an avid lover of summer music festivals, but doesn't get to go as much as she once did.

Emily Cebrowski – *University of Utah, Adelbert Doyle Smith Family Archaeological Preserve*



Emily Cebrowski is a senior at the University of Utah majoring in Anthropology and Geography. She earned her Associates of Science Degree and Cultural Resource Management Certificate from Salt Lake Community College. Under the direction of Utah Division of State History Antiquities Department, she interned for Dr. Shawn Lambert as he created a tactile, interactive, and inclusive 3D printed traveling archeological exhibit. In her spare time, she volunteers as a lead steward for the Adelbert Doyle Smith Family Archaeological Preserve located in Utah County.

Shelly Cordova – *Assistant Director Senior Steps & Forward Steps, Ballet West*



Shelly has been teaching for Ballet West Academy and Ballet West Outreach programs for 19 years. She professionally danced and taught nationally and internationally. In 2016 Shelly started Ballet West's "Seniors Steps" Program teaching Ballet for seniors at Senior Centers. In 2017 Shelly started the "Forward Steps" program, which is a variety of dance for incarcerated women, at Atherton Community Treatment facility and Orange Street Community treatment facility in Salt Lake City for probationers and parolees. Later in 2017 she started the "Forward Steps" program at the Utah State Women's Prison. Shelly was one of the assistant field choreographers for the 2002 Olympic Opening and Closing Ceremonies and Choreographer for the Utah/Moscow Youth Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies. Shelly has also choreographed for the Utah Opera. She has taught Jazz for over 20 years, her teaching credits include: The University of Utah, Salt Lake Community College, The Ballet School, Edinburgh Festival Scotland, Central Ballet School London England, and is currently teaching for Ballet West Academy, and Ballet West Outreach programs.



## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Teri Cowan – *Director of Community Engagement, Davis Arts Council*



Teri Cowan is a Davis County girl having grown up in Bountiful and now lives in Farmington. She graduated from Weber State a hundred years ago with a theatre degree and has worked as a stage & film actress and voice over talent ever since. She also worked as a realtor and served on the Davis Arts Council (DAC) board of trustees before she and her husband moved back east for 4 years. They returned to Utah (and their three children) from Washington DC in February 2015 and she came on staff as DAC director of development, community outreach and education. She is excited about DAC current programming and is looking forward to initiating new programs that will promote the arts and benefit the community. She is active in the Davis Chamber of Commerce Women in Business, and in addition to the arts Teri loves traveling, reading, and volunteering for her church and worthy causes.

Rebecca Chavez-Houck – *Aspira Public Affairs, LLC and Plan-B Theatre Board*



While I've held numerous roles in the community (legislator, board member, community leader, mother, wife, friend), I really enjoy my current role as Board President for Plan B Theatre because we focus on presenting voices that are often not heard in other productions. As someone who has often lived in the margins in Utah - as a woman of color who is not a member of the dominant religion, I always try to ask: "Whose voice is missing from this conversation?"

A Utah native, Rebecca Chavez-Houck holds a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication and a Master of Public Administration (MPA), both from the University of Utah. She represented Salt Lake City's District 24 (Downtown, Capitol Hill, Guadalupe & the Avenues) in the Utah House of Representatives from 2008-18, focusing primarily on public policy related to health and human services as well as voter engagement and access. She served as House Minority Whip (2014-16) and House Minority Assistant Whip (2012-14). She now provides leadership coaching and community engagement consulting through her public affairs firm, Aspira Public Affairs, LLC.

Rebecca and her husband, Martin Houck, live in Salt Lake City's Avenues area and have two children.

Olivia Custodio – *Director of Individual Giving, Utah Symphony | Utah Opera*



Olivia Custodio is entrenched in the arts. As an actress, opera singer, playwright, and Director of Individual Giving at Utah Symphony | Utah Opera, she considers herself very lucky to be surrounded by creatives at nearly all times. Originally from Ohio, Olivia has her BFA from Carnegie Mellon University in Vocal Performance and her Masters of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Utah. She has studied improv comedy at Second City in Chicago and hopes to one day become YouTube famous for something that requires very little effort. During her time living in New York City, Olivia created and hosted Operation: Opera, an operatic cabaret paired with local artists' mixed media projects, to help facilitate a love of opera and a deeper understanding of the importance of classical music. As a performer, her favorite roles include The Lady of the Lake in SPAMALOT, Domina in A FUNNY THING HAPPENED..., Elle in LA VOIX HUMAINE, Alice Ford in FALSTAFF, and Magda in THE CONSUL. Her one-act play, DRIVER'S LICENSE, PLEASE, received its premiere at Plan-B Theatre Company in March 2019.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Kirsten Darrington – *Program Director, Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts & Parks*



Kirsten Darrington is the Director of the Zoo, Arts and Parks program. Previously she worked as Assistant Division Director and Change Leader Program Administrator for the Utah Division of Arts & Museums. She has a depth of experience in the Utah arts community. In her positions for the State of Utah she fostered leaders, worked with advisory boards, and managed the distribution of Federal and State arts funds. Prior to her time at the State, Kirsten worked with several local arts groups including Ririe-Woodbury, Utah Shakespeare Festival and Utah Symphony|Utah Opera. In addition to Kirsten's professional experience, she holds a Bachelor of Arts from Westminster and a Master of Fine Arts from Southern Utah University in Arts Administration.

Chrissy Deal – *Manager, Multicultural Initiatives, WESTAF | Western States Arts Federation*



Chrissy Deal is a program manager whose responsibilities at WESTAF are centered on promoting multicultural leadership in the arts through professional development and networking. She manages WESTAF's Emerging Leaders of Color program, staffs WESTAF's multicultural advisory committee, and leads WESTAF's efforts in the area of executive search. Prior to joining WESTAF, Deal worked in the education and curatorial departments of the Denver Art Museum, served as a program officer for the scholarship program at the Daniels Fund, and was education director at the contemporary art center RedLine. She is a former vice chair of the Denver County Cultural Council, which allocates Scientific and Cultural Facilities District funds to cultural organizations. Deal is also a member of the Denver Art Museum's Latino Audience Alliance; an alumna of Denver's Circle of Latina Leadership; and a founding member of LatinasGive!, Denver's first Latina giving circle. She holds a bachelor's degree in art history from Northwestern University and a master's degree in nonprofit management from Regis University.

Gretchen Dietrich – *Executive Director, Utah Museum of Fine Arts*



Gretchen Dietrich is executive director of the Utah Museum of Fine Arts at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah. Under her leadership, the UMFA has flourished, with increased attendance, audience engagement, and community outreach; stronger partnerships on campus, in the community and around the country; higher revenues; and new institutional support. Prior to her tenure at UMFA, she held positions in museum education, public programming, and exhibition planning at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. From 2015-18, Dietrich served on the board of the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) and oversaw AAMD's Education & Community Issues Committee. She currently serves on the board of Southern Methodist University's DataArts. In 2014, she participated in the Getty Leadership Institute's Executive Education for Museum Leaders program and was a member of the National Art Strategies' chief executive program in 2015, which brings together fifty international arts leaders to explore community impact, place-making, community collaboration and innovation. Dietrich holds an MA in art history from Temple University and an undergraduate degree in art history from Chestnut Hill College.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Sarina Ehgott – *Director of Marketing & Brand, Utah Department of Heritage & Arts*



Rigid in brand consistency. Ravenously curious. Relentlessly helpful. Sarina Villareal Ehgott comes from a lengthy background in advertising and has worked across agencies, independently, and in non-profit and private sectors. Her work clarifies brand trajectories, formulates marketing strategies, leverages great design and explores what it means to be an emotional creature in a heavily market-driven world. Ehgott is currently the Marketing and Brand Director for the Utah Department of Heritage & Arts and, when she's not chasing kiddos, a visual artist.

Tracy Hansford – *Community Arts Coordinator, Utah Division of Arts & Museums*



Tracy Hansford is the Community Arts Coordinator for the Utah Division of Arts and Museums. She enjoys working with Local Arts Agencies across the state and graduates of the UA&M Change Leader program. Before moving to UA&M she spent five years in the Education Department of Utah Symphony | Utah Opera. Tracy was one of the founding members of the Salt Lake Emerging Arts Professionals Network and a producer for New World Shakespeare Company. She graduated from Westminster College with a degree in Arts Administration and a minor in Theatre. In her free time, Tracy enjoys rock climbing, reading and volunteering at the Bes Friends Kitten Nursery.

Libby Haslam – *President, Studio LP and Founder, 801 Creative Women*



Libby Haslam and Virginia Pearce founded **801 Creative Women** in 2017 as a response to the lack of women artists represented. Their mission is to connect and support creative women in Utah. Libby Haslam is the President of Studio LP and an Associate Adjunct Professor at the College of Architecture and Planning at University of Utah. She grew up in São Paulo, Brazil, and received a Masters of Architecture from the University of Utah. She previously supervised DesignBuildBluff, a design/build program for architecture students to build houses on the Navajo Reservation. She is an active member of her community, sitting on boards such as; the Salt Lake Art Design Board, Spy Hop, and a board member and founder of Women in Architecture. Notable projects of hers include the Salt Lake Community College Center for Arts and Media.

Pat Hill – *Grants Manager, Cedar City Arts Council*



Pat Hill is a retired chemistry professor who taught courses and faculty professional development workshops for over 20 years on the topic of Chemistry and Art, which included the chemistry of artists' materials, authentication, restoration, and conservation of works of art and other cultural items. She is now a Board Member for the Cedar City Arts Council and her responsibilities include grant writing.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Noemi Hernandez-Balcazar – *District Arts Coordinator, Granite School District*



Noemi has been a presenter at the Utah Art Educators Conference, a regular guest in “El Grito de la Prosperidad” Educational Radio show, and an award-winning educator and communicator in English and Spanish. In addition to her visual arts expertise she had experiences with dance that began when she became a student of the Dance Department of Mexico City’s INBA (National School of Dance). Her outstanding performance in education helped her earn the 2015 Granite Education Foundation Excel Award. For her work with students of diverse racial, social, economic, and religious backgrounds she was given the 2000 SUU Commitment to Excellence Advisor of the Year Award, and the 1999 SUU Multi-Cultural Center Advisor of the Year Award.

Mark Izu – *Composer / Musician*



Composer, producer and bandleader Mark Izu has fused the traditional music of Asia with African- American improvisation. As the Artistic Director of the Asian American Jazz Festival for 15 years, Izu has gained national and international attention for developing a new musical genre, Asian American Jazz. Recently Izu has been inducted into the Grove Dictionary of Music as a composer and founder of Asian American Jazz. In 2009 Izu won an Emmy® Award for Outstanding Music for his score in Bolinao 52. His film scores include Steven Okazaki’s Academy® award-winning Days of Waiting; Emmy-winning documentary, Return to the Valley; and a new score for the DVD release of Sessue Hayakawa’s 1909 masterpiece, The Dragon Painter (Milestones DVD - 2007). His theater scores have been performed at the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, and Sundance Festival and he was awarded a Drama-logic Award for Best Original Music & two Indie Awards for best CD. Izu’s other awards include Meet the Composer, Gerbode Composer Commission, Asian Business League Artist Award, Rockefeller MAP, National Endowment for the Arts, and San Francisco Arts Commission. In 2007 he received the US/Japan Creative Arts Fellowship to Japan sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Bunkacho.

Amir Jackson – *Founder, Nurture the Creative Mind*



Amir started Nurture The Creative Mind, what he describes as his life's purpose, to engage and empower young people through the arts. Since NCM's conception in 2007, Amir has positively impacted more than 12,000 young people in the community and has received numerous awards for his work including the Ogden Mayor's Award and the Red Cross Hero's Recognition Award. Amir is also a TEDx fellow and currently sits on the boards for the Utah Cultural Alliance, WESTAF multicultural committee, The Utah Museums Association, and the Ogden City Visitor's Bureau.



## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Kimi Kawashima – *Assistant Director of Music, Westminster College*



Pianist Kimi Kawashima enjoys a committed career as a teacher, performer, and arts administrator. She has performed in many notable chamber music series and has performed orchestral keyboard with the Utah Symphony, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra and Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra. She performed with members of the Utah Symphony and conductor Keith Lockhart and baritone Timothy Jones in performances of Peter Maxwell Davies' *Eight Songs for a Mad King*. She has recorded for MSR Classics, and will be heard on the forthcoming Hyperion recording of Saint-Saens' beloved *Carnival of the Animals*, with pianist Jason Hardink and Maestro Theirry Fischer and the Utah Symphony, from live performance recordings in December 2017. Kimi is currently Assistant Director of Music and Piano faculty at Westminster College, where she teaches piano, seminars in the Honors College and oversees the music department's budgets, scholarships and piano activities. Kimi was formerly Executive Director of the NOVA Chamber Music Series. During her tenure at NOVA, she actively collaborated with the Artistic Director and Board to triple the annual budget, commission composers Simon Holt, Jason Eckardt among others, update board governance and increase national visibility for the organization. She has taught at Weber State University, and served as Managing Director of the Gina Bachauer Piano Foundation and Pittsburgh Bach Choir.

Bryce King – *Recreation & Leisure Services Director, Hurricane City Recreation*



Bryce was raised in an Air Force military family. He has lived all over the country including overseas. He studied Parks & Recreation Management at Utah State University. Bryce has worked in the Parks and Recreation industry for over 10 years. Bryce has over 15 years of experience in the parks and recreation field and oversees 5 full time, 9 part time, and 80 plus seasonal staff. His departments include recreation, fine arts, theater, aquatics, community center and events. He frequents many conferences and trainings to be current with the industries trends and future opportunities. He has presented all over the country and enjoys sharing his passion for his job with others.

Katie Lee-Koven – *Executive Director, Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art*



Katie Lee-Koven is Executive Director and Chief Curator of the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art at Utah State University. In addition to serving as Director, Lee-Koven has curated art exhibitions that bring attention to the underrepresented artists or practices including the role of craft and applied arts in modern and contemporary art. Since 2012, she curated "*Black Mountain College: Shaping Craft + Design*"; "*New Narratives: Recent Works of University of Utah Faculty*"; "*Topographies: Recording Place – Mapping Surface*", and "*Torqued & Twisted: Bentwood Today*". Many of these exhibitions traveled nationally and internationally. Prior to serving as the ED of NEHMA she served as Director of the Mary Elizabeth Dee Shaw Gallery at Weber State University, Assistant Director of The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design (CCCCD) at the University of North Carolina Asheville, and Assistant Director and Curator of the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston.



## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Josh Loftin – *Public Information Officer, Utah Department of Heritage & Arts*



Josh Loftin has served as the public information officer for the Department of Heritage & Arts since 2016. Prior to joining Heritage & Arts, he oversaw marketing and communications for Wasatch Academy, an international boarding school in central Utah. He also worked for more than 15 years as a political journalist and editor at The Salt Lake Tribune, Deseret News, Salt Lake City Weekly, and Associated Press. He lives in Salt Lake City with his wife, Dani, and two boys, Alex and Charlie.

Kate MacLeod – *Musician, Composer, Music Instructor*



An award-winning songwriter and fiddle player, Kate MacLeod is a performer, composer, and music instructor. She has performed across the United States, Canada, and into Europe. She regularly teaches workshops for music camps and schools. Kate has numerous recordings of her work including "Blooming," produced by Grammy-winning musician Tim O'Brien, At Ken Sanders Rare Books, a collection of songs inspired by books, and "Deep in the Sound of Terra," featuring original violin instrumentals inspired by landscape and nature. Kate also works collectively with regional artists as a performing musician, recording producer, and event coordinator. Because musicians find a wealth of meaningful subject matter in her repertoire, her songs have been sung and recorded by other artists from California to the Czech Republic.

Marci Milligan – *President, Board of Director, Entrada Institute*



Ms. Milligan has more than 30 years experience in community development finance, grants management and delivery of technical assistance to Utah's nonprofit sector, including arts organizations. She has served in numerous capacities within the nonprofit sector both as an administrator and in board service. She is the principal owner of Lotus Community Development which offers development services to nonprofits which manage, build and rehabilitate affordable housing both in Utah and the Rocky Mountain region. Ms. Milligan is presently President of the Entrada Institute, the local arts agency for Torrey Town and Wayne County. Her volunteer time is focused on rural placemaking and economic development through the arts, eco-tourism and traditional land uses which emphasize cultural heritage. She believes the gateway to Capitol Reef National Park is the perfect place to live, work and recreate!

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

### Edith Mitko – *(Retired) Director, Office of Asian Affairs*



Edith Mitko was born and raised in Salt Lake City.. She served in various capacities at Salt Lake Community College for 26 years. She was the Director of Student Services & Minority Affairs for Utah's System of Higher Education and retired from higher education after 30 years of service. Edith was then appointed Director of Asian Affairs by Governor Michael Leavitt. After serving in the State Ethnic Offices for four years, she resigned to pursue her dream of teaching in public education. She received her ESL and Special Education Endorsements and taught 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade reading, math and language arts. Edith has been recognized with various awards for her work with and support of Utah's many ethnic communities. She and her husband, Tom, have been married for 49 years and have two wonderful sons and two practically perfect grandsons and one delightful granddaughter.

### Virginia Pearce – *Director, Utah Film Commission and Founder, 801 Creative Women*



Libby Haslam and Virginia Pearce founded 801 Creative Women in 2017 as a response to the lack of women artists represented. Their mission is to connect and support creative women in Utah. With over 20 years of experience in the film industry, Virginia Pearce has been the Film Commissioner for the state of Utah since 2014. Under Virginia's leadership, the Utah Film Commission has brought four major network television series and numerous award-winning projects to the state, creating over \$200 million of new state spend. Virginia has a passion for nurturing new voices and has created a number of programs encouraging diversity in the entertainment industry, including a lower budget incentive program, women's network, workplace harassment policies and an emerging talent grant program. Virginia serves on several boards including Sundance Institute Utah Advisory Board, Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI), Weber State Film Advisory Board and the Motion Picture Association of Utah. In 2018, she was one of 38 arts leaders from around the country selected to participate in Americans for the Arts annual convening; and was the recipient of the Zions Bank Women's Leadership Award in the Arts.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Jerry Rapier – *Artistic Director, Plan-B Theatre Company*



Jerry has served as the artistic director of Plan-B Theatre Company since 2000, where he works daily on new plays by local playwrights. He is the only person of color leading a professional theatre company in Utah. Nationally he has served on seven theatre panels for the National Endowment for the Arts and as a member of the Board of Governors of the Human Rights Campaign. Locally he has been named one of the Catalyst 100 by *Catalyst Magazine*, an Alternative Pioneer by *City Weekly*, one of Utah's Top 25 Cultural Power Brokers by *The Salt Lake Tribune* and one of Community Foundation of Utah's inaugural Enlightened Fifty. A recipient of Salt Lake City's Mayor's Artist Award in the Performing Arts, Jerry is now mostly known as six-year-old Oscar's Papa, which is just fine with him.

Paisley Rekdal – *Utah Poet Laureate*



Paisley Rekdal is the author of a book of essays, *The Night My Mother Met Bruce Lee*, a hybrid-genre photo-text memoir entitled *Intimate*, and four books of poetry: *A Crash of Rhinos*, *Six Girls Without Pants*, *The Invention of the Kaleidoscope* and *Animal Eye*, which was a finalist for the 2013 Kingsley Tufts Prize, the Balcones Prize and winner of the UNT Rilke Prize. Her newest books are *Imaginary Vessels* and a book-length essay, *The Broken Country: On Trauma, a Crime, and the Continuing Legacy of Vietnam*. Her work has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Amy Lowell Poetry Traveling Fellowship, a Civitella Ranieri Residency, an NEA Fellowship, Pushcart Prizes, the 2016 AWP Nonfiction Prize, and various state arts council awards. Her poems and essays have appeared in or are forthcoming from *The New York Times Magazine*, *American Poetry Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Poetry*, *The New Republic*, *Tin House*, the *Best American Poetry* series, and on National Public Radio, among others.

Giuliana Serena – *Beekeeper & Founder, The Bee: True Stories from The Hive*



Giuliana hosts and produces *The Bee* (lovingly competitive & occasionally curated storytelling in SLC), facilitates storytelling workshops, and offers consulting services to individuals and organizations. She is continually in awe of the power of stories to connect us and inform our understanding of ourselves, each other, and the world. Her commitment to creating intentional space of brave storytelling and engaged listening is rooted in her work as a Ceremonialist and Rites-of-Passage Facilitator, with a particular affinity for progressing culture, attuning to cycles of nature, and celebrating seasons of life.



## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

### Adam Sklute – *Artistic Director, Ballet West*



Adam Sklute was named Artistic Director of Ballet West in 2007. Since then he has expanded Ballet West's repertoire, visibility, and overall outlook with exciting company premieres, increased touring and public exposure, and greater focus on Ballet West Academy. At Ballet West, Sklute has presented more than 60 world and Utah premieres. He has presented 27 works never before performed by Ballet West by such renowned historical choreographers as Sir Frederick Ashton, George Balanchine, Bronislava Nijinska, and Michel Fokine. At the same time, he has also expanded contemporary repertoire from Jiří Kylián, Mark Morris, and Twyla Tharp, to name a few. He has commissioned 12 world premieres by leading choreographers such as Val Caniporoli, Nicolo Fonte, Jessica Lang, Matthew Neenan, and Helen Pickett. Sklute developed the Company's wildly successful annual *Innovations* program, designed to nurture and present new creations by Ballet West Artists and emerging Utah, national, and international choreographers. Based on the success of *Innovations* Sklute ushered in two major new initiatives – Ballet West's National Choreographic Festival, bringing together companies from around the country all presenting new and innovative creations; and *Works from Within* a program presenting World Premieres by Ballet West Artists.

### Anna Smyth – *Managing Director, Mindfulness Utah*



ANNA SMYTH, MS, RYT is Managing Director of Mindfulness Utah and Founder of Thrive Utah LLC, holds a Masters degree in Health Promotion and Education, which included formal study of mindfulness, stress physiology, and behavior change theory. She is a Qualified MBSR Instructor trained through the Center for Mindfulness at UMASS Medical School. She has loved sharing the evidence-based neurobiological benefits of mindfulness practice with others through leading mindfulness trainings, classes and presentations for companies, schools, and nonprofits such as Huntsman Cancer Institute, Intermountain Healthcare, the Weigand Center for the Homeless, Granite School District and the Utah School for the Deaf. She's been featured on Thrive Global, KRCL Radio Active, and First Seven Years. Anna is a member of the American Mindfulness Research Association. She is also co-founder of All Ability Mindfulness.

### Josh Stavros – *Associate Director of Arts Administration, Southern Utah University*



Joshua Stavros has over 16 years of professional arts management experience, including serving as Media and Public Relations Manager and Associate Education Director at the Tony-Award winning Utah Shakespeare Festival. He has a BS in Theatre and an MFA in Arts Administration from Southern Utah University. In addition to his arts management work, he has acted and directed in a number of collegiate and professional productions, including three Greenshows, and taught in the Cedar City area high schools. He has served as the spokesperson for the Utah Advisory Council of Theatre Teachers, and has been a member at large of the Utah Thespians Association. He currently serves on the boards of the Utah Cultural Alliance and Utah Cultural Advocacy Alliance.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

### LaDawn Stoddard – *Director, UServeUtah*



LaDawn Stoddard is the Director of UServeUtah, the Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism. With a degree in business management and an extensive background in finance, she began working for the Commission in 2004 as the Grants Officer and then went on to fill the role of Development Coordinator. In 2007 she became the National Service Program Manager, working closely with numerous community organizations across the state and in 2012 was appointed by the Governor as the Division Director of the Commission. Early in her career LaDawn owned and managed a small business which allowed her to work closely within her community; she has also served on numerous boards and volunteer committees at both the national and local level and has been personally engaged in volunteering from a very young age. She feels volunteers provide a valuable resource to Utah communities and is honored to be able to collaborate with those individuals and groups who are working to help make Utah better. LaDawn loves what she does, but will tell you her favorite \*job\* is that of wife, mother (of three sons) and grandmother of some of the most amazing people in the world!

### Brian Vaughn – *Artistic Director, Utah Shakespeare Festival*



Brian Vaughn is the Artistic Director of Utah Shakespeare Festival. Previously at the Festival: as an actor—over fifty roles in twenty-two seasons including title roles in Hamlet, Henry V, and Cyrano de Bergerac; Petruchio, The Taming of the Shrew; Benedick, Much Ado about Nothing; Leontes, The Winter's Tale; Prince Hal and Hotspur, Henry IV Part One; The Baker, Into the Woods; Javert, Les Misérables; Harold Hill, The Music Man; Charlie, Stones in His Pockets; Richard Hannay, The 39 Steps; as a director: Greater Tuna (2010), Dial M for Murder (2011), Peter and the Starcatcher (regional premiere, 2013), Henry IV Part One (2014), Henry IV Part Two (2015). Other Theatres: thirteen seasons as a resident company member at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre; Arizona Theatre Company; Chicago Shakespeare Theatre; Orlando Shakespeare Theatre; Nevada Conservatory Theatre; Northlight Theatre. Brian received his education from Southern Utah University. Teaching Credits: guest artist, director at Southern Utah University; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Western Michigan University.

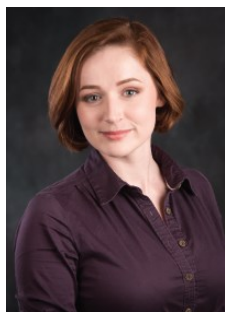
### Gary Vickrey – *Industrial and Organizational Psychology Practitioner, Tanner LLC*



Gary Vickrey, an Industrial and Organizational Psychology Practitioner, joined Tanner LLC in January 2013. As the Partner in Charge of the Leadership Solutions Practice. Gary started out in clinical psychology, he ran a program for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare that provided life skill Mentors for the chronically mentally ill. Gary had a previous career in the United States Air Force as a Fire Fighter and later as an Emergency Medical Technician. Gary was awarded nine medals and two achievement medals for bravery. During his career in the Air Force, he served with the United Nations in Operation Restore Hope throughout Africa. Gary was also a Deputy Sheriff in Latah County Idaho. Today, Gary specializes in succession planning and the coaching and development of senior leaders around the World. Gary's most recent area of specialty is in constructing and implementing Leadership Development Academies for Global Organizations and has facilitated these Academies in Europe, Asia and South and North America. Although Gary's practice is focused on the one-on-one development of leaders, he is an experienced and accomplished presenter on the topics of integrity, leadership brand, change management, conflict resolution, listening skills, communication, and rewarding and recognizing employees.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Jenn Waterhouse – *Program Coordinator, Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts & Parks*



Jenn Waterhouse is a Salt Lake native working at Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts & Parks as the Grants and Communications Coordinator. She graduated from Westminster College with a Bachelors in Environmental Science and an Honors degree. Jenn has worked in marketing, education, development, and community building with a number of non-profits in northern Utah, including Cache Valley Center for the Arts as their Marketing and Development Director and Tracy Aviary as Education Manager. She proudly certified as a Change Leader last year, and in spare time Jenn enjoys performing with community choirs and musical theatre companies.

Ellen Fagg Weist – *Visiting Writer, Utah Department of Heritage & Arts*



Ellen Fagg Weist is a visiting writer for the Utah Department of Heritage & Arts. Previously, she was a reporter and arts editor for daily and weekly newspapers in Oregon and Utah, and helped develop editorial plans for a national web company while based in New York and Los Angeles. At The Salt Lake Tribune, her writing consistently earned top regional honors for arts criticism (2010, 2011 and 2012) and for entertainment feature writing (2014, 2015 and 2016) from the Society of Professional Journalists. She earned an MFA from the University of Iowa, and has taught literary journalism at various universities.

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